



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update 4, September 2013



© Dow Lambert

A brant in Refuge waters

The Comprehensive Conservation Plan is Available

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is pleased to announce the completion of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). We sincerely thank all the individuals and organizations who participated in our planning process and contributed valuable input.

What Happens Next?

As funding becomes available, projects will be implemented as identified in the CCP. Priority projects are identified in Appendix C.

Since our last planning update in November 2012, which announced the public comment period for the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Environmental Assessment (CCP/EA), we have considered and integrated the public comments into the revised CCP. We selected Alternative B, the preferred alternative, to be implemented on

the Refuge. The decision was documented in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The CCP will serve as a guide for managing wildlife conservation and visitor services programs on the Refuge for the next 15 years.

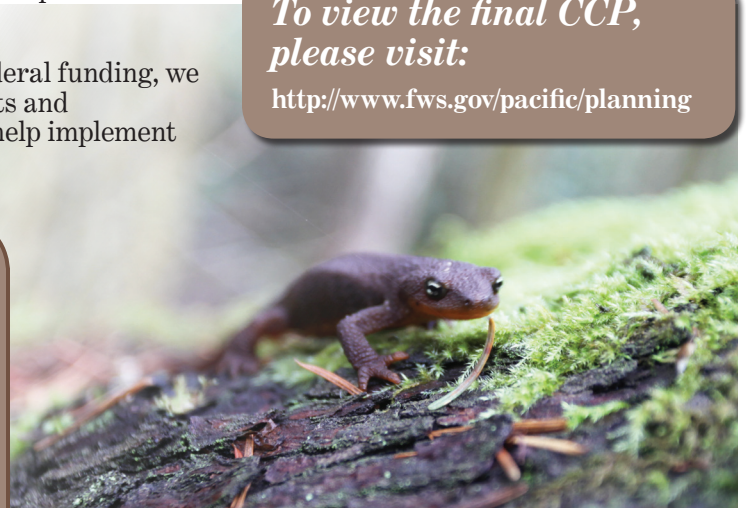
*To view the final CCP,
please visit:*

<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning>

In addition to federal funding, we will rely on grants and partnerships to help implement the plan.

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Rough-skinned newt

Sue Mayo/USFWS

Public Comments on the Draft Plan

We released the draft CCP/EA for public review and comment from November 28, 2012 to February 28, 2013. In total, we received over 200 separate written and oral comments from over 180 entities.

The comments received covered a variety of topics, including wildlife and habitat management; public uses such as wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, interpretation, horseback riding and jogging; vehicle use; boat access; law enforcement; and the New Dungeness Light Station.

A summary of all substantive comments received and our responses to them is provided in Appendix L in the final CCP.

Changes Made in the Final CCP

Based on the comments received, we made some modifications and clarifications to our preferred Alternative B. We fully describe these changes in Appendix L in the final CCP. The most substantial changes include the following:

- Jogging will continue on the Refuge with changes in the group size allowed and the area of use. Jogging will be allowed on the Bluff Trail adjacent to the Refuge's parking lots and on the beach west of Dungeness Spit.
- Horseback riding will be allowed, with stipulations, on the beach west of Dungeness Spit. A safe and legal alternate access route to the beach from the west or east must be obtained from adjacent landowners. If an alternate access route is obtained from the east, horseback use of a Refuge-owned road to the beach will also be allowed.

Other Highlights from the Final CCP

Wildlife and habitat management will emphasize protecting and maintaining forested, nearshore, freshwater wetland, and stream-riparian habitats, with an increased level of active habitat management, monitoring, and enhancement. For example, active forest management techniques will be employed within a core 40-acre area of the Dawley Unit to promote development of old-growth forest. The impoundment at the Dawley Unit will be managed for optimum water levels and benthic layer characteristics for amphibians and other benefiting species.

Public use activities permitted on the Refuge include fishing, shell-fishing (clams and crabs), wildlife observation, wildlife photography, hiking, no-wake boating, jogging, horseback riding (should alternative access be obtained per compatibility determination), beach use (wading, sunbathing, other recreational beach uses), environmental education, and environmental interpretation. In addition to changes in horseback

riding and jogging, other public use changes include new limits on boat landing hours on the beach directly south of the New Dungeness Light Station. Additional wildlife viewing, interpretive, and environmental education programs will be offered. Staff and volunteer time devoted to making visitor contacts and community outreach will be increased. New orientation, guidance, and regulatory signage and materials will be developed.

In the event that the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) declares the New Dungeness Light Station property excess to its needs, the Service will work with the USCG to bring the light station property into the Refuge System. Subsequently, the Service plans to enter into an agreement with the New Dungeness Light Station Association to continue their management and maintenance of the facility.

The effects of climate change will be considered during management activities, and we will reduce the Refuge's carbon footprint. Invasive species will be monitored and controlled. Other management activities will continue, including fire management, maintenance of existing structures, coordination with State, Tribal, and other partners, cultural resources protection, and land protection within the approved Refuge boundary.



Volunteers pick up trash at Graveyard Spit

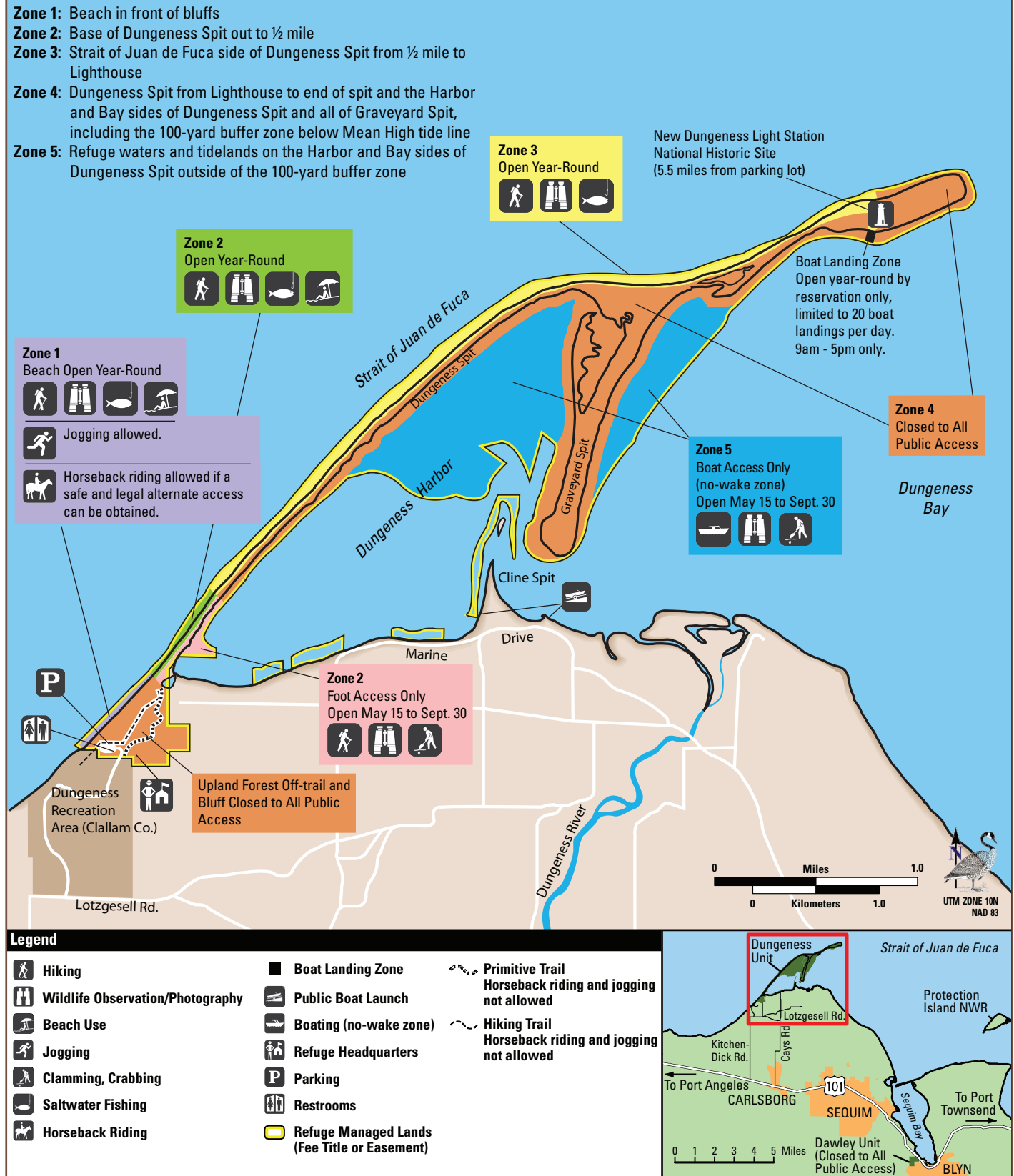


Labor day on the shore

USFWS

Dave Falzetti/USFWS

Public Uses Management Direction Map





U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex
715 Hologerson Road
Sequim, WA 98382

Copies of the CCP are available as follows:

Review or download the Comprehensive Conservation Plan from www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/main/docs/wa/docsdungeness.htm

Printed copies or copies on CD may be obtained by contacting:
Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex
715 Hologerson Road
Sequim, WA 98382
Phone: (360) 457-8451

Request by e-mail at FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov

A printed copy of the CCP is available at each of these libraries:

North Olympic Public Library – Sequim Branch
630 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382

North Olympic Public Library – Port Angeles Branch
2210 South Peabody St., Port Angeles, WA 98362

Port Townsend Public Library
1220 Lawrence Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Jefferson County Central Library
620 Cedar Ave., Port Hadlock, WA 98339

